

2 June 1988

Josh,

"Nothing seems beyond his taste and his skill."
So you conclude your beautiful review of Francis
Jacob's THAT STATUE WITHIN: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY. And
what could be, all unwitting, a more self-referential
observation?

For surely no other scientist has thought as hard
and as continuously as yourself about the possible
meanings, powers, and limitations of autobiography.
Do push ahead to your own.

The review of Jacob is anything but routine. In
a few paragraphs, you have reached down to capture
some of the essentials of the man and the book. You
place all readers of the review, and consequently all
the more readers of the book, happily in your debt.

Brb
Robert K. Merton